

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 3 has been amended to remove an errant reference number “12” in the lower-right corner thereof. Reference number “12” refers to the liquid in the chamber 90. *See, e.g.* ¶ [0011]. The reference number “12” in the lower-left corner of Figure 3 remains intact.

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Of claims 1-27 that were pending in the application, claims 25-27 were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-24. By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 25 and 26. As a result, claims 1-27 are respectfully submitted for further consideration.

1. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants appreciate the indication (by way of initials) that Examiner considered each of the references submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 24, 2003.

2. Rejections of Claims 25-27

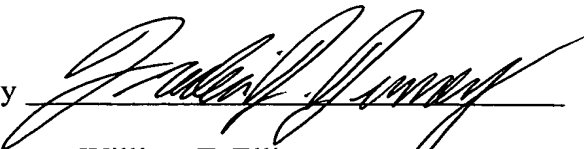
The Office Action rejected claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Nos. 4,419,677 ("Kasugayama"); 5,801,737 ("Sato"); and 3,953,862 ("Amberntsson"). As claim 25 and claim 26 (*i.e.*, the claim from which claim 27 depends) have been amended to depend from allowed claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these rejections is now moot and, therefore, should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the aforementioned reasons, claims 1-27 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such communication would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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